



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1650.35A
N98
17 Apr 2018

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1650.35A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: HONORARY NAVAL AVIATOR DESIGNATION

Encl: (1) Sample Honorary Naval Aviator Designation Certificate

1. Purpose. To establish orderly procedures and guidelines for nominating and designating certain outstanding individuals to become honorary naval aviators, and to assign responsibility for management and maintenance of the official list of honorees. This instruction is being reissued with a new date, updated version and signature authority to meet Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO) age requirement for Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) instructions.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1650.35.

3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction is applicable to CNOs N-codes; Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Commander, Navy Installations Command; naval component commanders; type commanders; systems commands; regional commanders; and all subordinate commands.

4. Responsibility. Commander, Naval Air Forces (COMNAVAIRFOR) will manage the program. Final approval of the nomination is made by CNO. The Naval History and Heritage Command (NAVHISTHERITAGECOM) will assist COMNAVAIRFOR in the maintenance of the official list of honorees.

5. Background. The practice of officially designating certain outstanding individuals as honorary naval aviators began in October 1949. This designation is not conferred lightly, and the contributions rendered to naval aviation by those so honored have been of a truly extraordinary nature. In recognition of an individual's service, an honorary naval aviator designation is bestowed on the individual with the right to wear the "Wings of Gold."

6. Selection Criteria

- a. Nominees may be either military or civilian.
- b. Nominees need not be qualified pilots.

c. Nominees will have made an extraordinary contribution which serves to enhance the mission or traditions of naval aviation. Such contributions may include one or more items listed in subparagraphs 6c(1) through 6c(5):

- (1) A specific act of historic significance or heroic in nature.
- (2) A contribution to human aspects of naval aviation such as training or aerospace medicine.
- (3) A technical achievement or breakthrough in design, engineering, or maintenance of aircraft, weapons, and or associated systems.
- (4) Media support of naval aviation in publications, art, or audiovisual presentations.
- (5) Public or official promotion in support of naval aviation.

d. To avoid issues in connection with contractual relationships and obligations, actual or perceived conflicts of interest, and actual or perceived acts of favoritism, persons, organizations, or companies having a commercial or profit-making relationship with the Department of Defense (DoD) or with a DoD component will not be granted recognition. The single exception is if the contribution is deemed to be unrelated to and completely outside any contractual relationship with DoD and the recognition is clearly in the public interest.

7. Procedures for Nominating

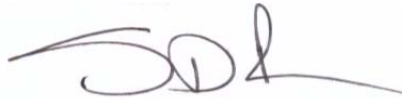
a. Nominations may be submitted with supporting documentation to COMNAVAIRFOR when it has been determined that a candidate meets the criteria set forth in subparagraphs 6a through 6d and is otherwise considered to be qualified and deserving. Documentation should include a biography of the individual, photographs, and other supporting information as appropriate.

b. Nominations will be reviewed by COMNAVAIRFOR and submitted to CNO via OPNAV Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98) with recommendations concerning approval.

c. Upon approval by the CNO, a Designation of Honorary Naval Aviator Certificate (see sample at enclosure (1)) will be signed by OPNAV N98 for the CNO. The designation will be presented to the recipient at an appropriate ceremony, and his or her name will be entered on the official list of honorary naval aviators.

d. The official list of honorary naval aviators will be updated by NAVHISTHERITAGECOM as new names are added and will be maintained in the archives of NAVHISTHERITAGECOM.

8. Action. The foregoing criteria and procedures will be used in the nomination and designation of honorary naval aviators.
9. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, must be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual (SECNAV) 5210.1 of January 2012.
10. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, OPNAV N98 will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, DoD, SECNAV, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 5 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 5-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1.



S. D. CONN
Director, Air Warfare

Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via Department of the Navy Issuances Web site, <https://doni.documentservices.dla.mil/>

SAMPLE HONORARY NAVAL AVIATOR DESIGNATION CERTIFICATE

Designation of Honorary Naval Aviator



The Chief of Naval Operations takes pleasure in designating

Mr. Joe W. Navy

As

Honorary Naval Aviator

Number # ____

In the United States Navy

Having Been So Designated, He is Thus Entitled

To All Honors, Courtesies and Privileges

Accorded by Naval Law, Customs and Traditions

Presented On This 15th Day of October, 2018



Chief of Naval Operations